

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed July 2, 2004.

Currently, claims 1-26 are pending. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3-5, 8, 14 – 16, 18, 20, 23-26. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-26.

I. Summary of the Examiner's Objections and Rejections

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable by Bonney et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,466,953.

Claim 10 was objected to as containing two periods.

II. Summary of the Amendments

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 14 – 16, 18, 20, 23-26 have been amended herein.

III. Remarks

It is respectfully submitted that the typographical error with respect to claim 8 has been amended and the Examiner's objection to the claim is now moot.

It is further respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 26, as amended, are not obvious under 35 USC §103 in view of Bonney et al.

Each of the independent claims in the present application defines "non-graphical" information calling for such information or "component specification" to include "... at least one data element representing a physical or functional attribute, and at least one data element representing a non-physical or non-functional attribute..."

Support for this amendment can be found in the application at page 15, lines 16 – 24:

Each component specification may include information (or variable values) describing physical and/or functional characteristics of at least one corresponding project building component. Each component specification may further include one or more database links to additional component specifications (i.e., sub-specifications) stored in the specification file 60. Each component specification may further include information related to a corresponding component other than its physical or functional attributes. For example, each component specification may include a design status (e.g., published and ready to be purchased) for the

component, a predetermined budget for the component, the quantity of the component to be purchased, the number of CAD elements (more fully described below) representing the component that are linked to the specification, purchase price of the component, whether the component has been received from a manufacturer, etc.

It is respectfully submitted that Bonney et al. neither teaches nor suggests any type of data association of the foregoing type of “non-graphical information” or “component specification” with “graphical elements,” as now defined in the application. In particular, Bonney et al is directed to:

a method and apparatus for graphical display and management of hierarchical relationships between objects of drawing sheets created by a computer aided design (CAD) application. Briefly, the present invention allows a user of a computer-implemented application to define and modify one or more hierarchical relationships between multiple objects of drawing sheets generated by the CAD application. A user of the application to define or change relationships between the drawing sheet objects can graphically manipulate icons corresponding to drawing sheet objects. In one embodiment, the present invention also links *descriptive fields in one or more icons* to corresponding descriptive fields in the drawing sheet objects represented to update the icons automatically in response to the drawing sheet objects being changed. In one embodiment, drawing sheet objects can be moved between files by the user through manipulation of corresponding icons. Col. 2 lines 66 – Col. 3 line 17. (emphasis supplied)

The portion of the reference cited by the Examiner as entering non graphical information includes standard information on a CAD drawing:

In one embodiment, icons are linked to the sheets represented. For example, in a CAD application, a drawing sheet typically includes a title block that includes such information as entity name, device name and/or description, date, revision number, etc. Icons can be linked to the sheets in memory such that changes made to the title block, or any other linked portion of the object, are updated on the corresponding icon. For example, if a drawing sheet is modified and the revision number is changed to reflect the modification, the revision number of the corresponding icon is also changed. Col 5, lines 35 – 45.

Of course, many other types of relationship modifications can be accomplished by similar methods and the present invention is not limited to a small number of objects. Modification of relationships can also be accomplished by methods other than use of a cursor control device, such as typed commands, use of menus, etc. Col 6, lines 7 – 13.

Nothing in Bonney et al teaches or suggests linking graphical information with non-graphical information as defined in applicant’s present claims. Bonney et al. is directed to a

graphical method for linking drawing hierarchies, and one of average skill in the art at the time the present invention was made would not be led by the teachings of Bonney et al. to create a method or system wherein graphical data is linked to a "component specification" or "non-graphical information... including at least one data element representing a physical or functional attribute, and at least one data element representing a non-physical or non-functional attribute" as now defined in the present application.

Moreover, the Examiner noted with respect to the rejection of claim 4 that "specification data is deemed to be data that is stored in the database and is not giving any special patentability because of the type of data, data is deemed to include all data". As understood, this statement reflects the Examiner's position that the data, as previously defined, was to be broadly interpreted. The aforementioned limitations specify that the non-graphical data referred to herein is clearly different than the standard "title block", but includes information such as that found in applicant's specification by way of example.

Each of independent claims 1, 5, 14, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, and 26 includes similar language. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 26 are not obvious in view of Bonney et al.

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of claims 1-26 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including today, January 3, 2005.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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